

CORNELL UNIVERSITY

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27 October 1988

Dr. Larry W. Esposito  
Planetary Sciences Search Committee  
Laboratory for Atmospheric and Space Physics  
Campus Box 392  
University of Colorado  
Boulder, Colorado 80309-0392

Dear Larry:

It has been my pleasure to witness the deepening scientific abilities and judgments of David Grinspoon from his undergraduate days. Over the years, I've been able to judge his research work in my laboratory at Cornell, his work during Uranus mission operations with the Voyager Imaging Team at JPL, his presentations at scientific symposia, and the work we are doing together on the environmental consequences of impacts on the early Earth. He goes directly to the physical heart of the problem, readily distinguishes between important and subsidiary problems, and is much more likely to chart his own way through a problem than most planetary scientists at his level of development. His independence of thought is remarkable. He is very bright, but also extremely personable, works well with others, is deeply committed to planetary science, and exhibits remarkable breadth of interest and abilities. This leads to the only area that might be considered a "weakness" -- that his interests are not subsumed by planetary science, but being well-rounded in this way is, in fact, part of his strength. I consider him one of the best all-around prospects in planetary science to come along in the last decade, and I recommend him unreservedly for the tenure-track position at the University of Colorado at Boulder.

With best wishes,

Cordially,

*Carl Sagan (ey)*

Carl Sagan  
(signed in Dr. Sagan's  
absence to expedite mailing)

CS/ey